SUBJECTS.

cut off from all communication with the Eastern Ghauts from which they drew a considerable proportion of their supplies, and by which route a large proportion of their produce was exported. He therefore requested that the work be pushed on with the least possible delay.

Referring to the main Kottayam-Kumili road, his Association, he said, put on record their appreciation of the good work done by the D. P. W., through their representative at the Assembly, two years ago. Since then the work had made very slow progress, metal having been laid along only 15 miles out of 42, while portions of the road up to the 26th mile, which should have been attended to before the new section was undertaken, had long been neglected. The bridge at the 24th mile was, he said, in a very dangerous condition. The member added that his Association hoped that the Dewan would soon be able to pay a visit to Peermade, where he would be able to learn at first hand the needs and grievances, if any, of their district and where he would be accorded a very hearty welcome.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer reports that the Periyar bridge is completed, except the decking and the parapet walls, and that these latter will also be finished before the next monsoon.

In regard to the Kanjirapalli-Kumili road, an estimate is under preparation for the re-metalling of the section between Vazhur and Kanjirapalli. That will be sanctioned when it is received. The Kumili road is one of our main roads and Government recognise that it must be kept in good order.

The re-metalling of the ghaut section of the Kanjirapalli road, as per estimate already sanctioned, is being done, and the Chief Engineer assures me that the work will be finished before the next monsoon.

90. *Communication between Devicolum and Kumili.*

Mr. H. M. Knight (Member, Cardamom Planters' and Rubber Planters' Associations) had intended to request for a cart-road from Devicolum to Kumili with a branch road down the Thevaram Mettu. He said, however, that in view of the financial position of Government, he would amend that request and would urge that at least the existing bridle-path might be put in good order, bridges built over all rivers and streams, the proposed deviation cut and outlet paths already promised made without delay.

Dewan's reply.—I am very glad that the member has withdrawn the request for a cart-road and substitutes in

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SUBJECTS.

lieu a bridle-path, because a cart-road is quite out of the question. There is now before Government an estimate for improving the existing bridle-path and bridging certain streams, including the deviation proposed. Government recognise the importance of the work and will sanction the estimate. Action is being taken with reference to the outlet paths.

91. *Delay in survey and issue of pattas.*

Mr. H. M. Knight spoke on the delay in the survey of the Hills and in the issue of pattas.

Kuttikal road.

The member also urged the early opening of the Kuttikal road.

Dewan's reply.—The survey of the whole area has been finished and the Survey department is doing mapping work now. The Superintendent reports that, if each estate is separately mapped, the sections may not fit in at the end, and that the whole work will be finished in about six months from now. The practice seems to be for the Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills to issue pattas as soon as copies of maps and area lists of a division are received by him. Orders will be issued to the Superintendent to grant pattas in the case of those divisions for which he has received maps and area lists. It will be well if the member will put in writing specific instances of delay and send the same to me. An enquiry will then be started.

In regard to the Kuttikal road, orders have been passed.

93. *Grant of Cardamom lands.*

Mr. Sinisamy Chetty of Cardamom Hills (Member, Nominated) requested, on behalf of the native Cardamom ryots, that the system of selling new lands in auction should be discontinued, that the ryots be allowed to pay acreage value in ten yearly instalments, and that the applicants for new lands be permitted to start work before survey, the assessment being levied from date of sanction to commence the work of cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—The report of the Superintendent of the Cardamom Hills on this subject has been received. Government will look into the matter and pass orders.

94. *Cart-roads down Cumbhom, Ramakal, &c.*

The same member also requested that the outlet roads down the Cumbhom, Ramakal, Pathinettampadi and Thevaram Mettus might be converted into cart-roads.

Dewan's reply.—It is utterly impossible to sanction the cart-roads proposed. In regard to the outlet paths,

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